

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow.

Applicants note the PTO's acknowledgement of submission of papers under 35 USC §119, including a certified copy of Spanish Application No. 200402282, filed September 24, 2004. To obtain the benefit of foreign priority, Applicants submit herewith a copy of the captioned application with a statement by a qualified translator certifying that the captioned application is an accurate translation of Spanish Application No. 200402282. Applicants request that the filing date of the Spanish priority application be accorded the instant application. As discussed below, perfection to the claim of priority having been satisfied, the Blanco et al., October 2004 reference is disqualified as prior art.

Claims 6-16 are pending in the application. The Examiner has generally objected to the claims as unclear. Applicants submit herewith various amendments to the claims consistent with suggestions made by the Examiner to eliminate the alleged lack of clarity. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The citation of Blanco et al. "alpha-1-antitrypsin replacement therapy controls fibromyalgia in two patients with PI ZZ alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency", *J. Rheumatology* 31(10):2082-2085, October 2004 has been mooted by applicants' perfection of its claim to priority of the original Spanish application filed September 24, 2004. By antedating that reference with applicants' claim to priority, and accurate translation, Applicants submit that the reliance on the reference is no longer

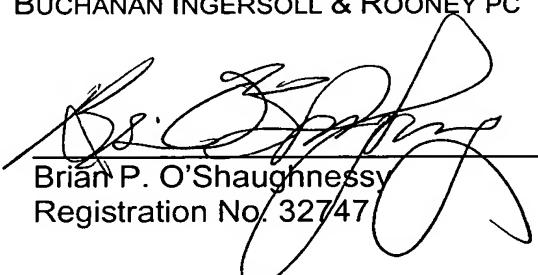
appropriate and request withdrawal of the outstanding Section 102 and Section 103 rejections based upon that reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request formal notification to that effect. If, however, the Examiner perceives any impediments to such a notice of allowability, whether substantive or formal, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: November 22, 2006

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